

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 TUNIS 06909 081948Z

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ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CCO-00 SSO-00 /026 W

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FM AMEMBASSY TUNIS

TO USMISSION USUN NY IMMEDIATE

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7357

S E C R E T TUNIS 06909

EXDIS

SECTO 604

FOR SCALI FROM SECRETARY

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OVIP (KISSINGER, HENRY A.)

SUBJ: PALESTINIAN ISSUE AT UNGA

1. FYI: THE UNGA DEBATE ON THE PALESTINIAN ISSUE DUE TO TAKE PLACE THE WEEK OF NOV. 11-15 WILL ADD FURTHER COMPLICATIONS FOR MIDDLE EAST PEACE NEGOTIATIONS TO THOSE CAUSED BY THE RABAT SUMMIT. WE WISH TO MAKE OUR POSITION ABSOLUTELY CLEAR ON THE PROBLEMS POSED BY THE ARAB HANDLING OF THIS ISSUE AND TO ENCOURAGE SELECTED DELEGATIONS TO DO LIKEWISE. HOWEVER, WE DO NOT RPT NOT WANT TO LAUNCH AN ALL-OUT CAMPAIGN AGAINST ARABS NOR DO WE WISH TO IN ANY WAY GET INTO A DISCUSSION OF THE WORDING OF ANY DRAFT RESOLUTION OR ENCOURAGE OTHERS TO DO SO. WE HAVE NO INTEREST IN DISCOURAGING AN EXTREME RESOLUTION OR STIMULATING MODERATE COMPROMISES. US MISSION SHOULD NOT RPT NOT BECOME INVOLVED IN ANY WAY. WE DO WISH TO GET ACROSS IN EARLY TALKS WITH SELECTED DELEGATIONS, AND POSSIBLY IN A STATEMENT AT AN APROPRIATE TIME, THE POINTS SUMMARIZED IN THE FOLLOWING PARAGRAPH. IN SHORT, IT IS IN OUR INTEREST TO MODERATE THE DEBATE BUT NOT THE RESOLUTION AND TO GENERATE CONCERN OVER POSSIBLE NEGATIVE CONSEQUENCES FOR PEACE NEGOTIATIONS. END TEXT.

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2. TALKING POINTS:

A. NEGOTIATIONS WITHIN THE GENEVA CONFERENCE FRAME-
WORK ARE BASED ON SC RESES 242 AND 338. THESE RESOLUTIONS
SPECIFICALLY ENDORSE ISRAEL'S RIGHT TO EXIST IN PEACE AS A
SOVEREIGN STATE.

B. WHILE THE UNITED STATES BELIEVES THE LEGITIMATE
INTERESTS OF THE PALESTINIANS MUST BE TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT
IN ANY OVERALL PEACEFUL SETTLEMENT, THIS CAN NOT RPT NOT BE
AT THE EXPENSE OF CALLING INTO QUESTION ISRAEL'S RIGHT TO
EXIST AS A SOVEREIGN STATE.

C. NEITHER THE UNGA NOR THE ARAB LEAGUE, IN ENDORSING
THE PLO AS THE REPRESENTATIVE OF PALESTINIAN
PEOPLE, MADE ANY REFERENCE TO ISRAEL'S RIGHT TO EXIST
NOR TO SC RESES 242 AND 338. MOREOVER, THE PALESTINIAN
NATIONAL COVENANT OF 1968 AND THE LATEST MEETING OF
THE PALESTINIAN NATIONAL CONGRESS ARE CATEGORIC IN
CALLING FOR THE CREATION OF A SINGLE SECULAR STATE IN
ALL OF WHAT WAS ONCE THE MANDATED TERRITORY OF
PALESTINE. THIS POSITION IS CLEARLY THAT OF THE PLO,
AS WITNESSED BY THAT ORGANIZATION'S WORDS AND DEEDS.
IT IS AN UNMISTAKABLE DENIAL OF ISRAEL'S RIGHT TO EXIST,
A RIGHT GUARANTEED INTER ALIA BY THE UN CHARTER.
THEREFORE THE ACTIONS ALREADY TAKEN BY THE UNGA AND RABAT
(BY ENDORSING PLO INSTEAD OF JORDAN) HAVE COMPLICATED
THE PROCESS OF NEGOTIATIONS. WE FEAR THE PRESENT UNGA
DEBATE WILL ADD TO THESE COMPLICATIONS. FOR ONE THING,
IT RISKS ADDING TO ISRAEL'S SUSPICIONS OF ARAB INTENTIONS;
ISRAEL HAS ALREADY MADE CLEAR IT WILL NOT NEGOTIATE WITH
THE PLO, AND FORTHCOMING DEBATE COULD RAISE ISRAELI DOUBTS
ABOUT NEGOTIATING WITH ANY ARAB GOVERNMENTS.
IN ADDITION, PUBLIC REACTION TO DEBATE IN U.S. COULD
UNDERMINE OUR ABILITY TO CONTINUE OUR PEACEMAKING ROLE.

D. WE BELIEVE THAT ALL THOSE GOVERNMENTS SINCERELY
INTERESTED IN PEACE FOR THE MIDDLE EAST AND TO THE
OBSERVATION OF THE UN CHARTER SHOULD MAKE IT VERY
CLEAR DURING THE UNGA DEBATE THAT THEY WILL OPPOSE ANE
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CHALLENGE TO ISRAEL'S RIGHT TO EXIST AS A SOVEREIGN
STATE, FROM THE PALESTINIANS OR ANY OTHER QUARTER,
AND REAFFIRM THEIR SUPPORT FOR SC RESES 242 AND 338
AS THE BASIS FOR NEGOTIATIONS.

3. USUN SHOULD APPROACH SELECTED DELEGATIONS WITH
WHOM OUR DEMARCHE WILL BE LIKELY TO HAVE AN EFFECT.
PERHAPS A GOOD GROUP WOULD BE THE TWENTY WHO JOINED

US IN OPPOSING THE ARAB TEXT AT UNESCO (PARIS (26511).

4. VOTING INSTRUCTIONS WILL BE PROVIDED ONCE A DRAFT
RES HAS BEEN INTRODUCED.
KISSINGER

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NNN

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